

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 AGR-20

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01 /182 W

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R 141550 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9514

INFO RUESIJZTAMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 2511

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 3855

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, NI

SUBJECT: BRIGGS SAYS AFRICAN STATES HAVE UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED
REVERSE PREFERENCES

REFERENCE: ABIDJAN 3343 AND 33 5#

1. ARTICLE IN TODAY'S DAILY TIMES REPORTS THAT TRADE
COMMISSIONER WENIKE BRIGGS, ON RETURN FROM ABIDJAN MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE, TOLD REPORTERS AT AIRPORT THAT CONFERENCE " UNANI-
MOUSLY ADOPTED THE DECLARATION WHICH UNEQUIVOCALLY REJECTED THE
EEC'S RECIPROCITY POLICY' TOWARDS AFRICAN STATES REGARDING
THEIR TRADING TERMS WITH THE ENLARGED COMMON MARKET. " IN
PLACE OF THE EEC OFFER," M#
ODPLORIGGS# SAID, " WE HAVE AGREED TO
JOINTLY NEGOTIATE NEW TERMS OF TRADE WITH THE EEC AND ANY
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OTHER OUTSIDE BODIES." THE ABIDJAN CONFERENCE WAS A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS ACCORDING TO BRIGGS, BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME AFRICAN STATES SPOKE WITH ONE VOICE ON VITAL ISSUES. TODAY'S NEW NIGERIAN, NIGERIA'S OTHER LEADING DAILY, CARRIED STORY ALONG SAME LINES, BUT IN LESS CATEGORICAL TERMS.

2. COMMENT: BRIGGS CAPACITY FOR MISUNDERSTANDING AND MISREPRESENTATION IS RARELY EXCEEDED, AND JUDGING FROM OTHER REPORTS OF THE ABIDJAN CONFERENCE, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT ONCE AGAIN COMMISSIONER BRIGGS' REMARKS ARE SOMEWHAT WIDE OF THE MARK. NEVERTHELESS, HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE ABIDJAN RESULTS MAY PROVIDE MOMENTUM TO CAMPAIGN OF MANY NIGERIAN OFFICIALS TO ELIMINATE WHOLE SYSTEM OF PREFERENTIAL TRADING ARRANGEMENTS AS CONTAINED IN YAOUNDE AGREEMENT.
REINHARDT

NOTE BY OC/ T: LAGOS 03855 AS RECEIVED. VERIFICATION ON REQUEST.

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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